

Level: Four

Expository

Concept Questions:

What is a beaver?

(3-2-1-0)

What are dams built by beavers?

(3-2-1-0)

What are problems caused by beavers?

(3-2-1-0)

How do beavers protect their young?

(3-2-1-0)

Score: _____ /12= _____ %

_____ FAM _____ UNFAM

Prediction:

"The Busy Beaver"

Have you ever heard someone say "busy as a beaver"? Beavers are very busy animals and they are master builders. This furry animal spends its life working and building. As soon as a beaver leaves its family, it has much work to do.

First, the beaver must build a dam. It uses sticks, leaves, and mud to block a stream. The beaver uses its two front teeth to get the sticks. The animal uses its large flat tail to pack mud into place. A pond forms behind the dam. The beaver spends most of its life near this pond.

In the middle of the beaver's pond is a large mound. This mound of mud and twigs is the beaver's lodge or house. The beaver's family is safe in the lodge because it is well hidden. The doorway to the lodge is under the water. After the lodge is built, the beaver still cannot rest. More trees must be cut down to be used as food for the coming winter. Sometimes there will be no more trees around the pond. Then the beaver has to find trees elsewhere. These trees will have to be carried to the pond. The beaver might build canals leading deep into the forest.

All this work changes the land. As trees are cut down, birds, squirrels, and other animals may have to find new homes. Animals that feed on trees lose their food supply. The pond behind the dam floods part of the ground. Animals that used to live there have to move. However, the new environment becomes a home for different kinds of birds, fish, and plants. All this happens because of the very busy beaver. (281 words)

From *Scott Foresman Science, Pupil Edition, Grade 4*, by Cohen et al.
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Level: Four

Number of Total Miscues

(Total Accuracy): _____

Number of Meaning-Change Miscues

(Total Acceptability): _____

**Total
Accuracy**

**Total
Acceptability**

0–7 miscues _____ Independent _____ 0–7 miscues

8–29 miscues _____ Instructional _____ 8–15 miscues

30+ miscues _____ Frustration _____ 16+ miscues

Rate: $281 \times 60 = 16,860 / \text{_____ seconds} = \text{_____ WPM}$

Correct WPM: $(281 - \text{_____ errors}) \times 60 = \text{_____} / \text{_____ seconds} = \text{_____ CWPM}$

Retelling Scoring Sheet for “The Busy Beaver”

Main Idea

- _____ Have you heard
- _____ “busy as a beaver”?
- _____ Beavers are animals
- _____ busy animals
- _____ and builders
- _____ master builders.

Details

- _____ As soon as a beaver leaves its family,
- _____ it has much work to do.
- _____ The beaver builds a dam.
- _____ It uses sticks,
- _____ leaves,
- _____ and mud
- _____ to block a stream.
- _____ The beaver uses its teeth
- _____ its front teeth
- _____ to get sticks.
- _____ The animal uses its tail
- _____ to pack mud.
- _____ A pond forms
- _____ behind the dam.

- _____ The beaver spends its life
- _____ near the pond.
- _____ The beaver’s home is a mound
- _____ in the pond.
- _____ The family is safe
- _____ because the lodge is well hidden.
- _____ The doorway
- _____ to the lodge
- _____ is under the water.
- _____ Trees are cut down
- _____ to be used as food
- _____ for the winter.
- _____ Sometimes there will be no trees
- _____ around the pond.
- _____ The beaver has to find trees
- _____ and carry them
- _____ to the pond.
- _____ The beaver might build canals.

Main Idea

- _____ This changes the land.

Details

- _____ As trees are cut,
- _____ birds,
- _____ squirrels,
- _____ and animals have to find new homes.
- _____ Animals lose their food supply.
- _____ The pond floods the land.
- _____ Animals have to move.
- _____ A new environment becomes home
- _____ for different birds
- _____ and fish.

49 Ideas

Number of ideas recalled _____

Other ideas recalled, including inferences:

Level: Four

Questions for "The Busy Beaver"

1. What is the passage mainly about?
Implicit: how a beaver keeps busy; *or* what a beaver does
2. According to the passage, what are the beaver's front teeth used for?
Explicit: to get the sticks
3. Describe the beaver's tail.
Explicit: large and flat
4. Why does the beaver build a dam?
Implicit: to make a pond; *or* to make a place for his lodge
5. What is the beaver's lodge or house made of?
Explicit: mud and sticks
6. Why is the doorway to the beaver's house under the water?
Implicit: it is safer and more hidden; *or* so enemies can't get in

7. What does the beaver eat during the winter?
Explicit: trees

8. Why might some people dislike beavers?
Implicit: they change the land by flooding; they drive out animals; *or* they cut down too many trees

Without Look-Backs

Number Correct Explicit: ____

Number Correct Implicit: ____

Total: ____

____ Independent: 8 correct

____ Instructional: 6–7 correct

____ Frustration: 0–5 correct

With Look-Backs

Number Correct Explicit: ____

Number Correct Implicit: ____

Total: ____

____ Independent: 8 correct

____ Instructional: 6–7 correct

____ Frustration: 0–5 correct